



# V minute news

vol. 4 no. 5

March 8, 1972

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS • AREA V**

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES--ONE OF THE NEW RMP DIRECTIONS

On January 19, Congress was advised by President Nixon that he was directing the Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare to develop new ways of organizing emergency medical services and of providing care to accident victims. Responsibility for this special initiative in emergency medical care will be lodged in Regional Medical Programs, with \$8 million dollars earmarked in the 1972 budget, and \$15 million in the 1973 budget. In addition, special permission has been given to use regional funds for projects to improve emergency medical services.

The magnitude of the problem in Los Angeles County is not clearly defined and accurate statistics are not available but the need for improved emergency care has long been recognized; there is plenty of evidence of the inability of patients and their families to obtain emergency transportation (either through their own ignorance of how to use available services, or through the inability of the present system to respond); of long waits at emergency rooms, or multiple inter-hospital transfers; instances of lack of trained physicians and other health professionals, or lack of proper equipment and backup services. At present, no one agency is charged with improving this situation, although a County Committee on Emergency Medical Care does report and make recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors about County controlled activities, and several individual groups are trying to make improvements.

As part of the approach to develop a broadly based plan for implementation of L.A. County Emergency Medical Services System, AREA V is involved in the planning for an Emergency Medical Services Conference, to be presented jointly by three California RMP Areas--IV (UCLA), V (USC) and IX (Charles Drew Postgraduate Medical School), in cooperation with Comprehensive Health Planning Association of L. A., L. A. County Committee on Emergency Medical Care, and the Hospital Council of Southern California. A grant application for funding of this planning conference was prepared by the three RMP Areas, and submitted to the California Committee on RMP on March 1.

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The two-day conference, scheduled for June 19 and 20, 1972, at Los Angeles Convention Center, will consider how various aspects of the existing system operate and how they can be improved. A core of about 300 invitees is planned but the meeting will be open to all persons interested or involved in emergency care in the County and it is anticipated another 200 will attend.

A first priority, on which there is already consensus, is the need to raise the baseline level of training of all ambulance and emergency rescue personnel, certain policemen, lifeguards, and other fire department personnel in L. A. County to the minimum level of Emergency Medical Technician-I, to maintain this level of competence, and to develop a career incentive mechanism for emergency rescue personnel. A second component of the RMP grant application requests funding to expand upon existing programs and to develop new and improved curriculum for EMT-I training.

In L. A. County, of a total of more than 1,100 ambulance and emergency rescue personnel, only 156 have been trained by the Dunlop system to the level of EMT-I. By September, 1972, another 60 will have been trained through the pilot program supported by AREA V funds.

This demonstration program for the training of ambulance attendants was negotiated by AREA V in August, 1971, but because of unavoidable delays, the first session did not begin until January 11, 1972. The course, under the guidance of Gail V. Anderson, M.D., Director of Emergency Medical Services at L. A. County - USC Medical Center, is patterned after that developed by Dunlop and Associates, and requires 80 hours to complete. A Registry examination is given as a final test and successful graduates attain an EMT-I Certificate. Instructor for the AREA V course is Dr. Martin Morris, an orthopedic surgeon who researched the needs of the program by personal observation on actual ambulance trips and in emergency wards.

The planning initiated by the three RMP's since they approached the L. A. County Committee on Emergency Medical Care in December of 1971 has now involved many other agencies, health professionals and community representatives, too numerous to list here. To mention a few AREA V RMP people, however: George C. Griffith, MD, who is chairman of the advisory board for the Conference; Leon C. Hauck, AREA V staff liaison; and Robert H. Pudenz, MD. Lee D. Cady, Jr., MD, Henry B. Dunlap, and G. A. Heidbreder, MD are members of the County Committee on Emergency Medical Care headed by Max Harry Weil, MD. Donald W. Petit, MD is an ex-officio member of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee, as are the Coordinators of Areas IV and IX.

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

AREA V - USC

1 West Bay State Street  
Alhambra, California 91801  
(213) 576-1626

POSITION AVAILABLE

Project Coordinator--Continuity of Patient Care

Summary Description:

The Project Coordinator will assess the state of continuity of patient care in selected communities and hospitals; gain the acceptance and participation of five to ten hospitals in developing and presenting workshops designed to meet their particular training needs; and work with existing continuing education mechanisms to have continuity of patient care training efforts included in their regular offerings, on an on-going basis.

Job Qualifications:

R.N. (Master's preferred) or MSW with successful experience with continuity of patient care.

Ability to work with professionals in the medical and health field.

Ability to organize material and speak and write effectively.

Ability to identify problems associated with the delivery of continuity of patient care and to initiate and implement appropriate courses of action.

Ability to plan, conduct, and evaluate educational programs.

Knowledge of research methodology.

Knowledge of community resources and referral processes.

Salary Range:

Full-time: \$16,000 - \$20,000

Submit application in writing by May 1 to: Gail M. White, Assistant Coordinator,  
Area V (see above address)

## AREA V PEOPLE

Jose F. Carlos, representative of the East Los Angeles Health Task Force on the AREA V Advisory Council since May, 1969, is leaving the Area Advisory Council to become Chairman of the Consulting Panel on Health Needs of the Under-served. Mr. Carlos is Supervisor of Public Health Investigations for the L. A. County Health Department, working out of East Los Angeles Health Center on South Ferris Avenue. As a member of AREA V Professional Advisory Group, Mr. Carlos and the members of his Panel (whose appointments will be announced shortly) will represent for AREA V such groups as members of ethnic minorities, the poor, the aged, the unemployed, and residents of rural areas.

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Newest addition to the secretarial staff of AREA V is Mrs. Rebecca Sanchez who, with special skills in writing and speaking Spanish, and a knowledge of the Mexican American community, will be of great assistance to AREA V in its current projects with the East Los Angeles and other Spanish-speaking communities.

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The AREA V Advisory Committee on AHEC's, chaired by Stanley E. Gunstream, Ph.D., is to have two new members--Pauline Rodriguez, RN, Hospital Service Occupation Instructor for the Abraham Lincoln High School and Norma De La Hoya, a Public Health Nurse connected with the East Los Angeles Child and Youth Center. One of the new members is a replacement for Mrs. Lola Marshall, who is not able to continue her commitment with the Committee. The Advisory group has just completed a set of criteria for the development of Area Health Education Centers in AREA V, and in conjunction with RMP Areas IV, IX and COMP-LA, is working toward development of a group which might perform a similar function on a countywide basis.

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One of the reasons you may have found it difficult to get the undivided attention of AREA V staff members of late might be because nearly all of them have been involved in writing progress reports and proposals. Progress reports and continuation applications have been prepared for core funds, for four operational projects (Pacemaker Evaluation and Information Center, Physician Education in Early Chronic Respiratory Disease, Nephrology Training Project, and American Indian Free Clinic) and for the developmental component project, Coordination of Free Clinics. Staff has also been involved in the development and review of objectives for incorporation in the next revision of regional objectives for the California RMP. Adding to the tempo are technical reviews of projects submitted for the forthcoming review. A new operational proposal for the Rio Hondo area is also in preparation.

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Antelope Valley Health Planning Council has elected the following officers for the calendar year 1972: As Chairman, John Lundblad (Pastor of St. Stephen's of the Valley Lutheran Church, Palmdale; active in the Clergy Counseling Service of Antelope Valley and in NEAR, Antelope Valley's free clinic); First Vice-Chairman--Norton Nichols (Asst. Superintendent Antelope Valley High School District); 2nd Vice Chairman--Sally Harris (community worker of the Frederick Douglass Child Development Center, active in Headstart programs in Antelope Valley); reelected as Secretary--Constance C. Evans (Senior Health Educator, L. A. County Health Dept., has been active with the Council since its inception.) Antelope Valley's Health Council delegate to the AREA V Advisory Council is Mrs. Betty Valentine, with Dorothy McVann, M.D., as alternate.

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Two meetings were held at AREA V on February 18 to discuss coordination of health manpower data needed in the AHEC programs, and for future planning and evaluation. Attending were Mrs. Ann Lewis and Mr. Tom Candelaria, both of Area VII RMP (San Diego and Imperial Counties) representing the California Regional Health Manpower Survey, which was recently funded by CCRMP, as well as members of the AHEC-Los Angeles East Task Force on Survey of Health Facilities and Educational Resources and Health Manpower, and representatives of the AREA V AHEC projects Advisory Committee, and Comprehensive Health Planning. Further meetings to develop planning are being convened by AREA V staff members Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH, Kay D. Fuller, RN, and Elias Chico.

\* \* \* \*

Stanley E. Gunstream, Ph.D., Chairman of AREA V AHEC Advisory Committee and Area Coordinator Donald W. Petit, M.D. have recommended the creation of an overall Los Angeles County group to facilitate broader planning and coordination of Area Health Education Centers in the County. At a recent meeting of representatives from three RMP Areas--IV (UCLA) V (USC) IX (Charles Drew Postgraduate Medical School), and from COMP-LA, it was agreed that there is a need for early activity on a countywide basis before programs become operational and less flexible. Representatives of emerging Area Health Education Centers in the County will be asked to develop membership for a countywide Coordinating Council on AHEC's.

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For advance registration in California Heart Association's 1972 Scientific Sessions for Nurses to be held May 18, 1972 at the Newporter Inn in Newport Beach, California, contact California Heart Association, 1370 Mission Street, San Francisco 94103. Among the topics to be discussed are: "Nursing Assessment of the Cardiac Patient," "Psycho-Social Needs of the Cardiac Patient at the Time of Discharge From the Hospital" and "The Scope of Cardiac Nursing."

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- Gail M. White, M.A.

**Area Advisory Council**

Liston A. Witherill, Chairman

**Professional Advisory Group**

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- John M. Connor, M.A.
- Henry B. Dunlap, M.P.H.
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- George C. Griffith, M.D.
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